

# White Privilege:

The elephant in the room when talking about Black Lives Matter

## What is It?

*White privilege is a social phenomenon. Although the definition of "white privilege" has been somewhat fluid, it is generally agreed to refer to the implicit or systemic advantages that white people have relative to people who are the objects of racism; it is the absence of suspicion and other negative reactions that people who are objects of racism experience.* [Wikipedia](#)

## Examples:

Being able to...

- assume that most of the people you or your children study in history classes and textbooks will be of the same race, as you are
- assume that your failures will not be attributed to your race
- not have to think about your race, on a daily basis
- see yourself reflected in the media including movies, TV, art, books, etc.
- go to a store and not be followed or assumed a criminal based on your race

## HOMEWORK:

- Privilege, Power and Difference, by Allan Johnson
- Privilege: A Reader, edited by Michael S. Kimmel and Abby L. Ferber
- White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism, by Paul Rothenberg
- Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person, by Gina Crosley-Corcoran



### Other types of unearned privilege:

**Class:** Being born into a financially stable family can help guarantee your health, happiness, safety, education, intelligence, and future opportunities.

**Sex:** If you were born male, you can assume that you can walk through a parking garage without worrying that you'll be raped and then have to deal with a defense attorney blaming it on what you were wearing.

**Ability:** If you were born able-bodied, you probably don't have to plan your life around handicap access, braille, or other special needs.

**Sexual orientation:** If you were born straight, every state in this country affords you privileges that non-straight folks have to fight the Supreme Court for.